23: Shabad N-4 (no date) 1951 Rl Soviet Union Rl
Georgia RI1

bank. The city is scheduled to have a population of about 50,000 inhabitants. Kutaisi is the site of the first Transcaucasian automobile plant, under construction during the current Plan, the initial production to be restricted to 30,000 3½-ton trucks per year. There are cement works at Kaspi and lumber mills at Mtskheta, Borzhomi, and Marelisi. A large paper mill has been built on the Ingur River in the vicinity of Zugdidi.

The principal agricultural regions in the Georgian SSR are the Black Sea littoral and Imeretia, in the west, and Kakhetia, in the east. The Black Sea littoral includes the coastal zones of the Abkhaz and Adzhar Autonomous SSR and the Kolkhida (or Colchis) lowland along the lower course of the Rion River. Kolkhida was formerly a malaria-infested marshy region covered with dense jungle vegetation. In order to render this area suitable for agriculture, a huge drainage project was begun during the years before the Second World War, and is being continued during the present time. The Rion River and its arms were diked in, and the banks were planted with eucalyptus trees to absorb moisture from the ground. The importance of this subtropical region lies mainly in the fact that, with the exception of the small Lenkoran' lowland of Azerbaijan, this is the only area of the USSR where such crops as tea, citrus fruits (including oranges, lemons, tangerines, and recently grapefruit), tung trees, geranium, camphor, ramie, and so forth can be grown in industrial amounts. Tea and citrus fruit plantations cover the greatest acreage. In addition to the subtropical crops, tobacco, almond, and fruits are also important. The industry is based almost entirely on the agricultural production. There are tea-drying plants, tobacco factories, canneries, fruit driers, essential-oil plants, and other industries. Imeretia, which lies in the upper part of the Rion basin, is noted for its silk and wine production. Sericulture is practiced in the region west of Kutaisi, near Samtredia and Tsulukidze, and large silk mills are located in Kutaisi itself. Wines are made south of Kutaisi, with an important center at Zestafoni. Other important crops are corn, the most important grain type under cultivation, and sugar beets, which were introduced into Georgia during the second Five-Year Plan. Kakhetia, in northeastern Georgia, is the most important wine-producing area of the republic. Abundant heat and insolation, together with sufficient rainfall and a fertile soil, render this region most suitable for viticulture. The Kakhetian wines form one of the chief exports of the Georgian SSR. Other products include cotton, only recently introduced into Kakhetia, to-

23: Shabad N-4 (no date) 1951 Rl Soviet Union Rl
Georgia RI 1

bacco, and raw silk. Wine is also produced in the area south of Tbilisi, with the center at Bolnisi (formerly Lyuksemburgi).

The livestock herds of Georgia graze chiefly in mountain pastures. This is especially true of the sheep and goats. There is some dairy farming in the Kura valley.

The health resorts of the Georgian SSR play an important role in the economy of the country. They fall principally within the mineral springs and climatological varieties and are frequented by tourists and convalescents from the entire USSR. The best-known resorts are Abastumani, in the southwest, the high altitude resorts of Borzhomi (famous for its bottled mineral water) and near-by Bakuriani, and also Surami and Tskhaltubo.

For transportation facilities Georgia relies mainly on the Baku-Tbilisi-Batumi trunk railroad and its many branches. During the Second World War the Black Sea coastal line was completed; it is now used by direct Moscow-Tbilisi trains. Formerly the route led around the eastern end of the Greater Caucasus and via Baku. Short spurs connect the main trunk line with the port of Poti, the mines of Tkibuli and Chiatura, the resort of Borzhomi, and the lignite mines near Akhaltsikhe, as well as with Stalinir, the capital of the South Ossetian Autonomous Oblast. From Navtlug, an eastern suburb of Tbilisi, a branch goes northeast to Kakhetia, and the southern main line leads to the Armenian SSR and the Aras valley. Three important highways cross the central portion of the Greater Caucasus into Georgia. These are the Sukhumi military road, crossing at Klukhori Pass and terminating at Sukhumi on the Black Sea, the Ossetian military road, which leads through Mamison Pass to Kutaisi, and the Georgian military road, which starts at Dzaudzhikau (North Ossetian Autonomous SSR), winds through the picturesque Dar'yal gorge, overcomes the crest at Krestovyy Pass, and has its southern terminus at Mtskheta and Tbilisi.

The principal export products of the Georgian SSR include manganese, lumber, tobacco, fruits (mainly citrus fruits), wine, and tea.

Tbilisi (formerly Tiflis) is the capital of the Georgian SSR and the second largest city and industrial center of Transcaucasia. It is a very old city, which was founded on the historic route leading from Europe to Asia along the Kura valley. It lies at the junction of the Transcaucasian trunk railroad with the Georgian military road. The industry includes machine construction (primarily implements used in oil drilling and the processing of raw silk, wine, and tea), textile milling (silk and